

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides methods, products, and compositions for selectively inhibiting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus* species. Specifically, the present invention discloses the use of tetrahydroiso alpha acid or hexahydro beta acid at a concentration effective to inhibit the growth of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*. The inhibition of *S. aureus* in accordance with the present invention thus provides useful methods, compositions and products such as feminine hygiene products for treating the diseases associated with *S. aureus* infections and infestations, i.e., toxic shock syndrome, without disrupting the normal bacterial flora in the area of its application.